NOTE XXXIII.

MERULA JAVANICA (HORSF.) AND M. FUMIDA (S. MÜLL.) TWO DISTINCT SPECIES

BY

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Merula javanica (Horsf.).

Seeb. Cat. Br. M. V, 1881, p. 279 (part. only spec. a, b, c Types).
id. Ibis 1893, p. 219 (Note).

Owing to the incorrect diagnosis given by Horsfield [1]) of his »*Turdus javanicus*", it would be impossible to refer on this species at all, if not, fortunately, the types were preserved in the Collection of the British Museum. On these types the late Mr. Seebohm has given (cit. above) the following most valuable note: »There are three types of Horsfield's *Merula javanica* in the British Museum, which are apparently male, female, and young. The adults differ from all other Javan examples kwown, in having the chestnut restricted to the belly, and not extending to the flanks. The white on the under tail-coverts is also reduced to a shaft-line in the male. It is possible that they may have been procured on some other mountain, and that *M. fumida* may be specifically distinct from *M. javanica*.

1) Trans. Linn. Soc. vol. XIII, 1822, p. 148: »*Turdus Javanicus* mihi. T. corpore fusco, striga gulari maculisque abdominalibus obscuris ferrugineis. — Bochrit: Javanis. Longitudo 8½ poll. — This species is nearly allied to *Turdus australis*: it differs by the dark ferrugineous colour of the under parts".

And in this view the experienced Monographer on the Turdidae was no doubt right, as well as in supposing that there are three species of Ouzels in Java, all peculiar and confined to the high mountains of this island. Of the present species the Leyden Museum possesses only one specimen, an old bird collected on the Mountain Tjerimai (»above 5000 feet"), Cheribon in Western Java, and presented by Dr. A. G. Vorderman in 1896.

This bird has the chestnut restricted to a considerable large patch on the centre of the belly, but the sides are brown, of the same colour as the remainder undersurface, including the lower tail-coverts, which show only the shaft white, it agrees therefore exactly with the diagnostic characters pointed out by Mr. Seebohm. Moreover he remarks (Cat. Br. M. p. 279): »The type of *T. javanicus* and that of *T. Schlegeli* agree in the colour of the under tail-coverts, but the latter has the rich chestnut flanks of the adult male", which however is not *M. javanica* but *M. fumida* (Müll.), as in the Catalogue Mr. Seebohm mixes three species under the head-name *M. javanica*. Dr. Sclater, who also examined two of Horsfield's types in the British Museum, considers them to belong to the same species as *M. fumida*, but his short notice mentions also the ferrugineous colour on the belly to be very restricted (Ibis 1875, p. 344).

As Mr. Seebohm correctly remarks the nearest ally of *M. javanica* (Horsf.) is *M. Schlegeli* Scl. from Timor [1]). This latter species is however lighter on the chin, throat and upper breast, has the sides of lower breast and vent

1) *Turdus* (*Merula*) *fumidus* S. Müll. Verh. Land- en Volkenk. 1839—44, p. 201, Note. (Descr. spec. ex Timor) — *Turdus schlegeli*, Scl. Ibis 1861, p. 280. The type in our Museum seems to be still unique. Dr. Salomon Müller, who did see more of Timor than any one since, procured this specimen in the beginning of September (between 1st—6th) 1829, in a valley called Penpaan, near to the Mountain Mieomaffo in the interior. This valley must be in considerable altitude, as Dr. Müller expressly mentions, that it was so cold as never experienced by him before on Timor or Java.

also chestnut and shows only faint lighter shafts on the brown lower tail-coverts.

Merula fumida (S. Müll.).

Turdus (*Merula*) *fumida* S. Müll. Verhandl. Land- en volkenkunde (1839—44) p. 201. Gedé (descr. in Note).
T. hypopyrrhus Hartl. Verh. Brem. Samml. 1844, p. 43.
T. fumidus (pt.) Finsch, J. f. Orn. 1863, p. 39 (descr. type spec. from Gedé).
T. javanicus Scl. (nec Horsf.), Ibis 1861, p. 280. — id. 1875, p. 346, Pl. VIII.
»*T. vulcanus* Temm." Pelz. Novara Reise, Vögel, 1865, p. 70.
Merula javanica (pt.) Seeb. (nec Horsf.) Cat. B. Br. M. V, 1881, p. 279 (only descr. old male, spec. d; syn. part.). — ib. Ibis 1893, p. 219 (not descr. in note). — Büttik. (nec Horsf.) N. L. M. XV, 1893, p. 107 (descr. ad. et jun.).

Dr. Sclater's description is taken from the type of *T. hypopyrrhus* Hartl. in the Bremen Museum, as also the excellent figure on Pl. VIII, which will serve to distinguish this species at once from *M. javanica* (Horsf.), in having the head of the same dark olive-brown as the remainder upper surface, in having the belly, inclusively the flanks, chestnut, a white anal patch and well marked white shaftstripes on the lower tail-coverts. This latter character differs a good deal, being the white shaftstripes in some specimens very narrow, but is shown already in the young bird, which is uniform dark olive brown (also on the head), showing already on the middle of lower breast and vent some chestnut feathers, but more dull than in the old bird.

The Type in the Leyden Museum was collected by Dr. Salomon Müller in 1826 or 1827 on the Gedé (Western Java) on an altitude of 8000 feet. Moreover we possess one old and one young bird with no other indication than »Java". In 1841 the Imperial Museum in Vienna received from the Leyden Museum one specimen of this Mountain Ouzel from the Gedé, s. n. »*Turdus* (*fumatus*) *vulcanus*

Temm.", another useless synonym, as, at least in our Museum, there is no specimen labelled »*T. vulcanus* Temm." or »*T. concolor* Temm.", another synonym incorrectly bestowed on Temminck as author. Another specimen mentioned by von Pelzeln s. n. »*Turdus vulcanus*" was shot by Zelebor on the top of Mt. Pangerango (10,000 feet high) in Western Java, the same locality where Wallace obtained one specimen (Scl. Ibis, 1875, p. 346, Note). This species (as well as its allies) being confined to the highest mountains, is therefore difficult to get and consequently very rare in collections.

The third Javan mountain ouzel is:

Merula whiteheadi, Seeb. Bull. B. O. C. N°. V (June 26th) 1893. — id. Ibis, 1893, pp. 221 and 257.

Discovered by Mr. John Whitehead (in August 1886) on Mt. Tosari (7000 feet high) in Eastern Java. This species in distinguished at once in having a greyish head, (»capite canescente" Seeb.). According to Seebohm *M. Whiteheadi* is confined to East-Java, but Mr. Hartert enumerates from this region also »*M. javanica* (Horsf.)", as obtained by Doherty in 1896 on the neighbouring Peak Arjuno (8000—8300 f. h.) — See: »Novitates zool. III, 1896, p. 538.

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